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IRTHLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR 1937

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ROBERT R. MACGIBBON,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

E. TURNBULL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

CERTIFIED SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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Medical Officer's Report.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH,
May, 1938.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Irthlingborough.

I have the honour to present you the Annual Report on the Public Health of the District for the year 1937. The form of the Report will be in accordance with the suggestions of the Ministry of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of Area.

Area 2922 acres.

Population (census 1931) 4715.

Estimated resident population, 4484.

No. of inhabited houses, 1921, 1002 ; 1937, 1242.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921, 1168 ; 1937, 1278.

Rateable Value, £18,437.

Sum represented by a penny rate £69 (approx).

The majority of the inhabitants are employed in Boot and Shoe manufacture, in leather currying and tanning, and in ironstone mining.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1937.

		TOTAL	M	F	
Live Births	Legitimate	64	35	29	Birth Rate per 1000 population ... 14·94
	Illegitimate	3	2	1	
Stillbirths		4	1	3	Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total births ... 0·82
Deaths		54	30	24	Death Rate per 1000 population ... 12·04

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth :—
From Sepsis, Nil. From other causes, 1.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	29·85
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births ...	31·25
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate births ...	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 11.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age), Nil.

Population.

The estimated population for the year 1937 is 4484. This shows a decrease of 1 from the estimated population for last year. This estimate is again fallacious owing to the influx of young people under Government auspices, and to extended developments in ironstone mining.

Local Birth Rate.

The total number of live births in the area during 1937 was 67. This gives a Local Birth Rate of 14·94. The rate for England and Wales for the same period was 14·9. The local rate shows an increase on the previous year of 2·5 per 1000 population.

The total number of Still Births in the area was 4, giving a local rate of 0·82. The same rate for England and Wales was 0·60.

Death Rate.

The total number of deaths in the district during 1937 was 54, of which 30 were males and 24 females. This gives a Death Rate for the district of 12·04. The comparable death rate is 12·28, the figure for England and Wales is 12·4.

Infant Mortality. The Infant Mortality Rate for 1937 is 29·85. The figure for England and Wales for the same period is 58.

The following table shows in detail the causes of death as returned by the Official Registrar.

	Cause of Death	M	F
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	Nil	Nil
2.	Measles	,,	,,
3.	Scarlet Fever	,,	,,
4.	Whooping Cough	,,	,,
5.	Diphtheria	,,	,,
6.	Influenza	,,	,,
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	,,	1
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	,,	Nil
9.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	5	2
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	Nil	Nil
11.	Syphilis	,,	,,
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	,,	,,
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease... ...	6	5
14.	Diabetes	Nil	1
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	2
16.	Heart Disease	7	6
17.	Aneurysm	Nil	Nil
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases ...	1	,,
19.	Bronchitis	1	1

	Cause of Death	M	F
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	Nil	Nil
22.	Peptic Ulcer	1	,,
23.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil	,,
24.	Appendicitis	,,	,,
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	,,	,,
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ...	,,	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	,,	Nil
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	,,	,,
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	,,	,,
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	,,	1
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	2	Nil
32.	Senility	1	,,
33.	Suicide	Nil	,,
34.	Other Violence	,,	1
35	Other Defined Diseases	4	2
36.	Causes ill defined or unknown ...	Nil	Nil
	All Causes ...	30	24

General Provision of Health Services for the District.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority, or by the County Council.

A (1) Fever, Nil. (2) Small Pox, Nil.

By arrangement with the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital Committee, cases of Infectious Disease may be admitted, when necessary, to the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital.

B (1) Tuberculosis.

The County Council Sanatorium, Rushden, is available for the reception of patients from this area.

(2) *Maternity.*—Under the County Council scheme, abnormal cases, and cases in which home conditions are unsatisfactory, may be sent to the Kettering or Northampton General Hospitals.

(3) *Orthopædic Cases* from this area are sent to the Manfield Orthopædic Hospital, Northampton.

Illegitimate Infants and homeless children may be admitted to one of the Cottage Homes of the Public Assistance Committee.

Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring institutional treatment are removed by the Fever Hospital Ambulance.

Non-infectious cases and accidents are removed by the ambulance of the Irthlingborough Corps of St John Ambulance Brigade. The work done by this Corps is invaluable, and its members may be commended for the rapidity and skill with which they carry out such removals. During the year money has been raised by public contributions to provide a new and up-to-date ambulance.

Clinics and Treatment Centres in the Area.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held at St. Peter's Schools on the first and third Tuesdays in each month.

Day Nurseries School Clinics Tuberculosis Dispensaries Treatment Centres for Venereal Disease	Nil

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis patients are sent to the Dispensary, Midland Road, Wellingborough, for consultation with the County Tuberculosis Officer. Suitable cases are, on his recommendation, admitted to Rushden House Sanatorium for treatment.

Venereal Disease.

Venereal cases requiring treatment are sent to the special clinic held at Northampton General Hospital.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are both employed part time by the Local Authority, and contributions to their salaries are made under the Public Health Acts.

The Health Visitor, appointed by the County Council, has continued to work in the town and do much valuable work during the year.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, etc.

The Nursing duties of the town are carried out by the Irthlingborough Hospital and Nursing Association. The Association employs one Nurse-Midwife, who has done excellent work during the year. No special provision is made for the nursing of infectious disease.

There are no unqualified or independent midwives practising in the town.

Laboratory Work.

During the year the Pathological and Bacteriological work for the District has been done by the Pathological Department of the General Hospital, Northampton, and the Clinical Research Association, Ltd.

A stock of Diphtheria anti-toxin, in phials of two different strengths, as suggested by the Ministry of Health, is always available for the use of medical men practising in the district.

Legislation in Force.

There are no local acts or special local orders in force in the area. The only Adoptive Act is part 3 of the Public Health Act of 1890.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—During the year 1937, the chlorination and filtration plant has continued to work satisfactorily. An analysis was made on three occasions during the year, and the water was found to be of good quality.

Drainage and Sewerage.—All houses and factories in the district are on the water carriage system (see San. Insp. Report).

Scavenging.—See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

We have, during this year, had no epidemics. During the year 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, 7 of Pneumonia, 3 of Erysipelas, and 4 of Paratyphoid (B) were notified. The cases of Paratyphoid occurred in one family, and in spite of close investigation the source of infection was not found.

Notifiable Diseases.

(*Other than Tuberculosis*) *during 1937.*

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	4	4	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	2
Other Diseases generally notifiable	—	—	—
Other Diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during the year.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	—	—	5	2	—	—

Vaccination.

During the year 2 Primary Vaccinations were performed.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken under these regulations during 1937.

In conclusion I wish to thank all the members of the Council for the help and consideration always shown to me, and the Officers of the Council for their ready assistance to me in carrying out my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT R. MacGIBBON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Council Offices,
High Street,
Irthlingborough.
May, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition of the Urban District of Irthlingborough, and of the work executed under the provisions of the Public Health Acts, and other Acts, for the year ending 31st Dec., 1937.

House Refuse.

657½ loads of refuse have been collected with the motor lorry, averaging 12½ loads per week.

The Hayway refuse tip continues in use, the method of disposal being to tip the refuse in layers of about 4 feet and cover it with earth and furnace clinker obtained from the local factories.

Nineteen informal notices have been served upon owners of properties, calling upon them to provide galvanised dustbins for 24 houses. All notices were complied with.

Trade Refuse.

Trade Refuse is collected from business premises by agreement on payment of a nominal charge. Four agreements have been entered into.

Infectious Diseases.

Five cases of Scarlet Fever, three cases of Erysipelas, four cases of Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid "B"), and seven cases of Pneumonia have occurred.

The cases of Paratyphoid were all in one family, and were removed to the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital. Close investigations were made, but the source of infection was not discovered.

Fumigation of eleven premises was carried out.

Bedding was destroyed and compensation paid after three cases of Tuberculosis and one case of Cancer.

Under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 167, the Medical Officer of Health certifies as to the necessity for the disinfection of premises and articles, and the destruction of any articles which would tend to spread infectious disease.

Sewers and Ventilating Shafts.

1250 ft. of 9 in. diameter sewer has been laid in Addington Road, and four dwelling houses, originally draining to cesspits, have been connected to the sewer. Four owners of houses draining to cesspits have signified their intention to connect the house drains to this sewer during 1938.

All defective ventilating shafts have been repaired, and one new shaft has been erected in Victoria Street.

A blocked sewer in Station Road has been dealt with, and a new manhole constructed at the point where the blockage occurred.

640 yds. of 15 in. diameter outfall sewer has been scraped in March Lane. A further length will be similarly dealt with in the current year.

Complaints.

Twenty complaints have been received and dealt with informally.

Slaughterhouses. - Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The four Slaughterhouses registered are kept in a cleanly condition, two having been whitewashed after verbal reminders.

Twelve Slaughtermen have been provided with licences under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

By resolution of the Council, Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, has been applied to require the use of the Humane Killer in the slaughter of sheep, ewes, wethers, rams and lambs. The resolution takes effect from 1st January, 1938.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected	60	44	5	130	130
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	2	Nil	4	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	3·3	4·1	—	3·1	1·4
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Paving of Backyards and Passages.

The paving of yards and footpaths at 59 dwelling houses has been effected, 44 with tarmacadam and 15 with concrete.

Sewage Disposal Works.

The disposal of sewage by pumping the sewage to the Sewage Farm situated in Addington Road has continued satisfactorily in the year under review.

Work has been commenced on the construction of new disposal works where the sewage, including all trade wastes, will be treated in sedimentation tanks, and double filtration through percolating filters fed by revolving sprinkler arms. The treated effluent will then pass into the River Nene.

Casual Wards.

The Casual Wards, owned and controlled by the Northamptonshire County Council, have been visited on a number of occasions, and are kept in a highly satisfactory condition.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Bakehouses.

There are six Bakehouses in the district, and all are kept in a satisfactory condition. There are no underground bakehouses.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The number of names on the register is as follows :—

Cowkeepers. Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk	5
Dairymen and Purveyors	1
Cowkeepers and Dairymen	1
Purveyors	1

One cowkeeper, dairyman and purveyor of milk went out of business during the year.

Twenty-seven samples of milk have been obtained for examination as to cleanliness. The classification of the results was : twenty "good," one "moderate," and six "bad."

The Cows in the district are examined quarterly by Mr. E. W. Parks, M.R.C.V.S., whose annual report is as follows : —

SUMMARY OF VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1937.

Quarter ending :	March 31st	June 30th	Sept. 30th	Dec. 31st	Total
Premises visited	8	7	7	7	29
Milch cows & heifers inspected	47	35	36	34	152
Symptoms of disease in cows	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Petroleum Acts.

The stores are kept in conformity with the regulations in force.

Sixteen Petroleum Licences and two Carbide of Calcium Licences have been renewed. One new Petroleum Licence has been issued.

Factory and Workshops Act.

Three lists of outworkers have been received, giving notice of fourteen outworkers engaged on work connected with the boot and shoe industry and with the manufacture of clothing.

Two notices have been served on owners with regard to the provision of sanitary conveniences, and one in connection with defects in the drainage system.

Water Supply.

The water treatment plant continues to operate satisfactorily. Samples of treated water have been bacteriologically examined on three occasions, no excremental organisms being found therein. The plate count has also been commendably low on each occasion. The Bacteriologist's reports state " the results are satisfactory for a public water supply."

The water consumption for the year was 65,806,000 gallons, this being 17·3% more than the previous year, and 107·3% more than in 1933. Trade demands account for this increase. The average consumption is 12·5 gallons per head per day for domestic purposes, and 40·2 gallons per head per day for all purposes.

368 yards of 3 in. diameter water main has been laid in Allen Road and Nicholas Road.

Services have been installed for supplying 36 dwelling houses and 4 other premises.

One sample of water was taken from a private well supplying 5 dwelling houses, and on bacteriological examination was found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes. The owner voluntarily installed a supply off the town mains to replace the well supply.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was found necessary to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One house infested with bed bugs was fumigated. The furniture of the tenant, who was rehoused in a Council house, was transferred in a totally enclosed steel motor lorry and subjected to fumigation overnight, the work being executed by the Council's officials. The fumigant employed was a proprietary vermin disinfestator.

Public Schools.

The sanitary arrangements in connection with the schools have been examined and found to be in a satisfactory condition and improvements to handwash basins have been carried out during the year.

Public Urinals.

The urinals attached to the various public houses, etc., are kept in good condition. Additional sanitary accommodation has been provided in two licenced premises, and also in one public building.

Notices Served.

45 informal notices were given to owners and agents respecting nuisances. Two formal notices were complied with.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Payment was made in respect of 1298 rats destroyed. Payment was at the rate of 1d. per rat, with the exception of National Rat Week when the price was 3d., and the remainder of October and November the price was 2d. per rat.

Drainage.

Eight choked drains have received attention. Defective drains have been repaired at eighteen houses and one factory, Pedestals have been renewed in sixteen W.C.'s.

One W.C. flushing cistern has been installed under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 47.

The smoke test has been applied to old drains from 17 houses.

All new drains have been water tested.

Smoke Abatement.

Observations were made and notifications given to the owners of two factories where it was considered improvement could be effected in the stoking of boilers.

Rag and Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Shops Act, 1934.

One notice served under the provisions of this act has been complied with.

Council Housing Schemes.

The following are details of the Council's Housing Schemes at the close of 1937 :—

Finedon Road	...	Houses erected and occupied	25
Cherry Street	...	,, ,, ,, ,,	16
Hayway	...	,, ,, ,, ,,	52
Allen Road	...	,, ,, ,, ,,	100
Spencer Road	...	,, ,, ,, ,,	8
Wellingborough Rd.	...	,, ,, ,, ,,	6
			207

Included in the total are fourteen houses erected during the year, five of which are occupied by tenants removed from over-crowded houses.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks for the support I have received from the Sanitary Committee and the Council, also for the assistance I have received from the Medical Officer and the Clerk.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. TURNBULL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Certified Sanitary Inspector.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) *(a)* Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	36
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	43
(2) *(a)* Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	20
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	24
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	36

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	17

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(*a*)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(*b*)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(*c*)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(*d*)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV, Overcrowding :—

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... Nil

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... Nil

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... Nil

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(*c*) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 9

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 62

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. ——

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

INSPECTION		
Premises	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
Factories	36	3
Workshops	3	—
Workplaces	—	—
Total	39	3

DEFECTS FOUND		
Particulars	Number of Defects Found	Remedied
Nuisances under the Public Health Act—*		
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—
Overcrowd'g & other nuisances	—	—
Sanitary Accomodation—		
Insufficient	1	1
Usuitable or defective ...	2	2
Not separate for Sexes	—	—
Total	3	3

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.